

Annual dental exam a must for unit readiness

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The current policy is for National Guard personnel to have an annual dental exam to verify readiness to deploy. This change in policy was made to bring Guard and Reserve forces up to the same standards as active duty forces. During Operation Desert Storm it was found that a disproportionate number of Guard/Reserve force members suffered dental emergencies. This was a significant impairment to the mission. The current Annual Dental Exam policy can correct past shortfalls in unit readiness. Meeting this policy is an important part of your responsibility in the ANG.

To deploy you must be in Class 1 or Class 2 dental status. Class 1 means you have no dental work that needs to be done. In Class 1 status you can meet the ADE policy by having an annual dental exam at your private dentist. You can document your continuing Class 1 status by having your dentist complete a form 2813 and returning it to the dental clinic on base. You can get this form from the base dental clinic. If you complete any dental treatment you must have a dental exam by a military dentist on base when that treatment is completed to return to Class 1 status. Using a form 2813 by your private dentist cannot return you to Class 1 status.

Class 2 dental status means you have dental work to be done that is not likely to cause a dental emergency soon. It is necessary to complete this dental work but you are still eligible to deploy and be on flying status in dental Class 2. When the dental work is completed you must have a dental exam by a military dentist at the base dental clinic to upgrade your status to dental Class 1. An exam and form 2813 by your private dentist will not upgrade

your dental status to Class 1.

Class 3 dental status means that dental work is necessary which, if not corrected, will likely cause a dental emergency soon. Being in Class 3 dental status means you cannot deploy or remain on flying status. You will be profiled and monitored monthly until the dental work is completed by your private dentist. To be removed from Class 3 status, you must be examined by a military dentist at the base dental clinic. An exam and form 2813 completed by your private dentist will NOT remove you from Class 3 status.

Tricare dental insurance coverage is now available to you at an attractive cost to help you with your legal obligation to maintain your health to ANG standards for deployment. Check with the base dental clinic for information about purchasing this valuable coverage.

Class 4 dental status means you have exceeded the maximum time allowable by regulation to have a dental examination by a military dentist. In this status you are not deployable or able to remain on flying status. In order to be upgraded from Class 4 status to Class 1 or 2 status you must be examined by a military dentist at the base dental clinic.

If you have any questions, contact the base dental clinic at x268.

***Note:** For those who have jobs without dental coverage, the base dental clinic has information and enrollment packages available for sponsors and/or family members needing care. The plan offers affordable rates, which can be deducted from your monthly drill pay. The package includes a variety of care programs. Stop by the dental clinic on UTA or go to www.ucci.com for information and enrollment.*

Logistics sections compete at 'Roadeo'

10/22/02 - EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFPN) — Thirty-six teams from around the Air Force gathered here to compete in this year's supply and fuels readiness competition, also known as "Roadeo." When it was all over, the team from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, earned bragging rights by accumulating the most points in the three-day competition.

The supply winner was the team from Eglin AFB, and the team from Shepherd AFB, Texas, took it all on the fuels side of the house. Competition lasted Oct. 16 to 18.

The competition was about more than just winning, said Master Sgt. Kenn Lett, event coordinator. "This was a chance to showcase our vocational skills and check our wartime skills in a challenging environment," Lett said. "We take this competition very seriously; it's a training tool that is a great motivator that builds esprit de corps."

"Roadeo" started in the late 1980s because there was no competition for the logistics career field. It has grown each year, according to Lett. More than 295 people competed this year.

Tech. Sgt. Brad Weaver, a five-time competitor from the Ohio Air National Guard's 179th Airlift Wing, said his unit's participation was a matter of pride.

"We're here to show the active-duty airmen that the Guard can do this stuff, Weaver said. "We don't expect to finish first, but we don't expect to finish last either.

Events included backing up a 6,000-gallon refueling truck, changing tires on a refueler, and driving a forklift through a slalom course.

While the title was up in the air until the last event, Lett said recognizing the contributions made by logistics people is what the competition is all about.

"We're not flashy, we're behind the lines doing the grunt work," he said. "But the Air Force can't fly and fight without logistics."